



Primary Press

Buzz.....

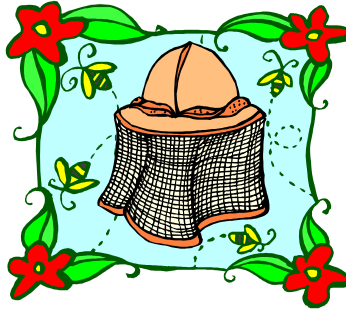


Bees are four-winged, flower-feeding insects. They have enlarged hind feet, branched or feathered body hairs and generally a stinger. Honeybees and bumblebees are the most common. Bumblebees are stronger than honeybees. Bees are beneficial insects because they pollinate crops and are the only insect that produces a food that humans eat, honey.



Honeybees live in hives or colonies. A small hive contains about 20,000 bees, while larger hives may have over 100,000 bees. Hives contain one queen, hundreds of drones and thousands of worker bees. The worker bees are female but they do not breed. The queen bee is female and creates

all of the babies for the hive. The drone bees are male and do not have stingers.



Bees communicate with each other about food sources using dances. The sounds from the movement of the bees is picked up by the tiny hairs on the bee's head. Bees use the sun in navigation.

The honeybee's hive has cells made of wax, this is where the queen bee lays her eggs. The queen can lay 1500 eggs daily.



When the larvae hatch, they are fed by the worker

bees. The workers collect pollen and nectar from flowers. The pollen is used as a protein source and the nectar is an energy source. Some of the pollen lands on the pistils of the flower and results in cross-pollination. This is important for some crops and flowers. The relationship between the plants and insects is called symbiosis.

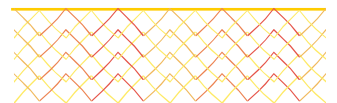


Bees turn the nectar into honey. Workers must visit over four thousand flowers to make a tablespoon of honey. Beekeepers must be very careful when they remove honey from the hive and not hurt the bees. The beekeepers give sugar syrup to the bees to replace the honey they take. The next time you enjoy honey on a piece of toast or a biscuit, remember how busy the bees were.

County of Loudoun Family Services

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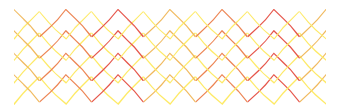
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Colorful Blossom

Bee with black and yellow stripes

Buzzing by my ear

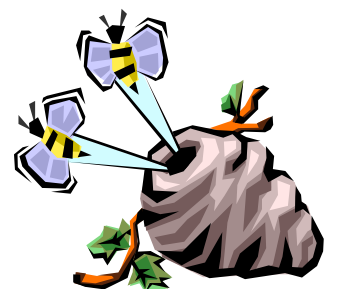


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Let's Have Some Fun!

Fingerprint Bumblebees

Press your thumb in yellow paint and press it on white paper at whatever angle you want your bee to be flying to make the bee's body. When the yellow paint is dry add black stripes, eyes and a stinger.



Plant a Bee Garden

Zinnias and black-eyed Susans will attract bees in your garden. Bees also like lavender, basil and sage. Watch the worker bees collect pollen and nectar from the flowers.



Bee Stripes

Make a number of bees with a different number of stripes. Have the children count the number of black stripes on the bees.

Honey Cookies

1/2 cup softened butter

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup honey

1 egg

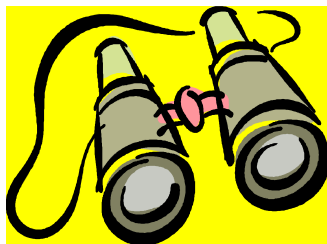
1 1/2 cup flour

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/4 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Heat oven to 375. Combine butter, brown sugar, honey and egg in medium bowl until smooth. Stir in remaining ingredients. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 7 to 9 minutes until edges are light brown. Let cool for 5 minutes before removing from cookie sheet.



Make a Pair of Bee-noculars

Here is what you will need to make your binoculars.

- Two cardboard rolls of equal length
- Some strong "adult only" glue
- A wooden clothes peg
- Some cellophane
- Pipe cleaners
- Beads, ribbon, construction paper, tissue paper, lace, tape, feathers and stickers for decorating
- Child friendly glue

Adults should glue the flat sides of the wooden clothes pin in-between the two cardboard tubes. This will form the bridge between the two rolls, allow time to dry before giving to the children to decorate. Attach the pipe cleaners on top for the antennae. Tape cellophane over the ends of the cardboard rolls and have the children use their bee-noculars to look for bees.



Honey Joys

4 cups of corn flakes

1/3 cup sugar

6 tablespoons of butter

1 tablespoon of honey

Melt the butter, sugar and honey together in a saucepan until the mixture starts to bubble and froth. Pour this mixture over the corn flakes and stir gently until completely coated. Spoon into cupcake papers and cook in 150 degree oven for ten minutes. Once the honey joys cool, they will be crunchy and delicious!

Bumble Bee, Bumble Bee Rhyme

Bumble Bee, Bumble Bee by the barn,
Bumble Bee get Johnny,
Under the arm
Bumble Bee, Bumble Bee
by the boulder
Bumble Bee Bumble Bee
get Johnny on the shoulder
Bumble Bee, Bumble Bee
by the tree,
Bumble Bee get Johnny,
under the knee



Bee Hive

This is my bee hive (clap hands together very loud)
But where are the bees?
Hidden inside where nobody sees
One, two, three, four, five (raising up fingers as you count)
There they go, off to the trees (point to the tree)

Bringing Home A Baby Bumblebee

Enjoy this sing along activity! Have the children cup their hands together as if they were carrying a baby bumblebee. Pull their hands apart when the bee stings.

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,
won't my mommy be so proud of me?

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,
Ouch! It stung me!

While the children are singing have them hold their bent arms against their bodies as "bees wings" and make buzzing noises as they dance around the room.



Book Corner

Busy Bees: The Story of Honey

By Dafna Tidhar and Avrami Tidhar

This story about honey describes one of the most amazing insects, the honeybee. Children and adults will love the illustrations and visual aids included in this book. This book has windows containing various substances in the development of honey: actual grains of pollen, royal jelly, beeswax and honeycomb.



The Magic School Bus

Inside a Beehive

By Joanna Cole

When Tim delivers the last of the season's honey to his grandfather's customers, the jars get broken. Tim's solution is simple, get more honey from some bees. Ms. Frizzle sweetens the idea by turning her class into bees and showing them a beehive up close.



Mr. Bumble

By Kim Kennedy

Mr. Bumble teaches us about overcoming life's obstacles and the unexpected friends we meet along the way.



Ten Busy Bees

By Sally Crabtree and John Wallace

Ten busy bees flying in a line, Busy Bee buzzed off and then that left nine. It's a countdown from ten to zero when Busy Bee keeps buzzing away from his pals! Whenever he zips off children get a delightful and simple lesson in subtraction.

The 1,2,3 Bees

By Nicole Wheldon

Follow the bees through their busy day and use counting in this fun picture book to learn numbers.

Buzz-Buzz, Busy Bees

By Dawn Bentley and Heather Caboon

This book makes learning animal sounds simple and fun. Children will love the rhyming story and all the fuzzy touch-and-feel bees who buzz by all their barnyard friends.



Ruby Lee the Bumble Bee

A Bee of Possibility

By Dawn Matheson

This "can-do" bumble bee zips and zooms about her garden paradise, contrary to the notion that bees aren't made to fly. This story is an introduction to young readers that encourages them not to think about limitations but of possibilities.



Ruby Lee the Bumble Bee

A Bee's Bit of Wisdom

By Dawn Matheson

This is a story of a girl named Ashley who wants to give up in the face of challenge. With Ruby Lee's encouragement, Ashley learns to face her fears and she grows as a result.

The Honey Bee and the Robber

By Eric Carle

This honey bee is always on the move, sipping nectar from flowers, avoiding hungry fish and birds and dancing with a butterfly. Once she returns to her hive, she hears a frightening noise and she thinks it is a robber. What kind of robber would steal their honey and how can bees protect themselves?

Children's Books About Honey Bees

By Terry Jones Ellis

There are seven books in this series. The first book, Day 1 in the Life of a Baby Bee, introduces George, a baby bee, who is searching for his identity. As the storyline unfolds through the seven book series, George has many adventures in his quest to discover who he is. The book series is a fantasy but each book contains facts about honey bees and actual photos of bees at work.



Did You Know?

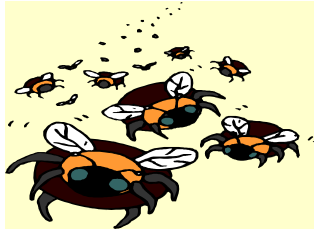


Here are some little known facts about bees.

- Honey bees have 6 legs, 2 compound eyes made up of thousands of tiny lenses (one on each side of the head), 3 simple eyes on the top of the head, 2 pairs of wings, a nectar pouch and a stomach.
- The wings of a honey bee stroke incredibly fast, about 200 beats

per second making their famous buzz sound. A honey bee can fly for up to six miles and at least 15 miles an hour.

- A hive of bees will fly 90,000 miles, the equivalent of three orbits around the earth to collect 1 kg of honey.



- A honey bee visits 50 to 100 flowers during a collection trip.
- The queen bee can live up to 5

years and is the only bee that lays eggs. She is the busiest in the summer months, when the hive needs to be at its maximum strength, and lays up to 2500 eggs per day.

- If we did not have bees, we would lose at least one third of our global food supply. We would not be able to produce clothes made of cotton as cotton depends on bee pollination. Medicines would also be reduced in supply since many are made of plant extracts.



County of Loudoun Family Services

Loudoun County Department
Of Family Service
102 Heritage Way, N.E.
Suite 103
Leesburg, Virginia 20176

Phone: 703 777-0353
Fax: 703 737-8248
E-mail: childcareworkshop@loudoun.gov
Web: www.loudoun.gov/childcare

Primary Press

Childcare Workshops for Providers

To register for these workshops,
please visit:

www.loudoun.gov/childcareworkshop

Workshop Registration opens on the
15th of each month

*If the 15th is on a weekend or holiday,
then registration opens on the next business day.*